

Waterford Street On-ramp Closure Information

June 22, 2005

After substantial public debate, the California Department of Transportation (Department) has decided to close the Waterford Street on-ramp to the northbound San Diego Freeway (I-405) and concurrently implement mitigation measures. The City of Los Angeles (LADOT) supports this action.

Based on our joint agency review of traffic volumes and travel patterns in the area, we do not anticipate a significant increase in local street congestion with the closure of the Waterford St. on-ramp. Even without taking dispersion of traffic into account, it has been determined that by comparing the volumes at the Waterford St. on-ramp with the volume at the Sunset Blvd./Church Lane intersection, impact to capacity would be minimal and could be mitigated.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures that address the traffic diversion resulting from the closure of the on-ramp have been developed. They include:

1. Providing an additional right turn lane directly into the southbound on-ramp from westbound Sunset Blvd. With the proposed mitigation in place, access to the existing Sunset Blvd. ramps will be improved;
2. Widening Church Lane, both north and south of Sunset Blvd.;
3. Restriping eastbound Sunset Boulevard from Church Lane to the NB 405 on-ramp to provide an additional exclusive right turn lane directly into the northbound on-ramp and restriping the NB 405 on-ramp to two lanes. (Additional improvement).

Reasons Why the Waterford St. On-ramp is Being Closed

- The closure will improve freeway traffic flow and reduce weaving conflicts on southbound I-405;
- The Department and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) policies favor the removal of isolated ramps;
- There has been a rapid increase in traffic volume on the ramp recently--70% increase from 1999 (200 vehicles per hour) to 2000 (340 vehicles per hour)—primarily consisting of vehicles bypassing the adjacent segment of the freeway;
- Increasing traffic volumes have a noise impact on adjacent residences;
- Traffic on Church Lane will queue with ramp metering and could cause periodic gridlock;
- The ramp is outdated and has a non-standard design. It cannot safely or operationally handle increased traffic volume;
- The street corner at Waterford St. and Church Lane includes a blind alley, which can be a traffic hazard;
- There are alternate ramps available including those at Sunset Blvd. (within ¼ mile) which are being improved;
- The residential neighborhood west of the freeway will be protected with a soundwall gap closure.



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WATERFORD ST ON-RAMP CLOSURE MITIGATION

